

## Message Text

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PAGE 01    WARSAW 06957 111435Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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P 111321Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6734

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 6957

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: EFIN PL  
SUBJ: FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS ON POLISH FINANCIAL DATA

REF: (A) WARSAW 6922 (B) STATE 184466 (C) WARSAW 5316

1. ON AUGUST 10, E/C COUNSELOR AND EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON FIRST VICE MINISTER OF FINANCE MARIAN KRZAK AND GAVE HIM ALMOST ALL OF THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION QUESTIONS IN REFTEL. WE DID NOT INCLUDE QUESTION 1(H) ON GOLD RESERVES AND QUESTIONS 5(A) AND 5(B) ON CEMA BANK FUNDS BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THESE WOULD NOT ONLY BE REJECTED FLATLY BUT MIGHT PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN HARD-LINE ELEMENTS IN THE GOP WHO, WE BELIEVE, ARE STRONGLY AGAINST THE RELEASE OF ANY MEANINGFUL INFORMATION.

2. WE EXPLAINED TO KRZAK THE IMPORTANCE OF MAXIMUM POSSIBLE GOP COOPERATION IN PROVIDING AS MUCH OF THE REQUESTED INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE AND THE DIRECT BEARING SUCH COOPERATION WILL HAVE ON US PLANNING FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO POLAND. WE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS URGENTLY NEEDED IN CONNECTION WITH POLISH REQUESTS FOR NEW CCC CREDITS WHICH WOULD SOON BE UNDER REVIEW. WE TOLD HIM THAT AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE WOULD BE MEETING WITH NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT WITOLD BIEN ON AUGUST 16, WHEN BIEN RETURNS  
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FROM LEAVE, TO DISCUSS OUR REQUEST AND THAT WE HOPED BIEN WOULD BE ABLE TO CONVEY THE REQUESTED INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE US OFFICIALS DURING HIS VISIT WASHINGTON. WE EMPHASIZED STRONGLY THAT ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED WOULD BE HELD IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE AND HIGHLY CLASSIFIED.

3. KRZAK HAD JUST RETURNED FOR A TWO WEEK VACATION IN THE UKRAINE AND WAS IN A RELAXED AND JOVIAL MOOD. HE REVIEWED THE LIST OF QUESTIONS QUICKLY AND SAID THAT HE WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE, ALTHOUGH HE MADE NO PROMISES. HE ALSO COMMENTED ABOUT THE UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY POLAND HAD RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF PRESS REPORTS OF POLISH REQUESTS FOR LONGER REPAYMENT TERMS FOR CCC CREDITS (REPORTED REF (A)).

4. COMMENT: WE CONCUR WITH THE SUGGESTION MENTIONED IN REF B THAT THE POLES PROBABLY PREFER TO TRANSMIT WHATEVER INFORMATION THEY CHOOSE TO RELEASE AT A HIGH OFFICIAL LEVEL, AS WAS DONE BY FINANCE MINISTER KISIEL WHEN HE VISITED WASHINGTON IN DECEMBER 1977. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THIS ENTIRE PROJECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS AN ONGOING PROCESS, IN WHICH THE EMBASSY CAN PLAY A USEFUL ROLE BY TRANSMITTING REQUESTS, STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF GOP COOPERATION, AND, WHERE AND WHEN FEASIBLE, ATTEMPTING TO DRAW OUT FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIALS ON PARTICULAR ASPECTS OR INTERPRETATIONS OF INFORMATION WHICH THE SAOLES HAVE PROVIDED.

5. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THE SENSITIVE, DELICATE NATURE OF THIS OPERATION, AND THE NEED FOR TACT, PERSEVERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING IN DEALING WITH THE FINANCE MINISTRY. OUR EXPERIENCE SINCE SECRETARY KREPS' INITIAL REQUEST EARLY IN DECEMBER 1977, AND KISIEL'S RESPONSE LATER  
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THAT MONTH, HAS CONFIRMED SEVERAL THINGS:

(A) INFORMATION PROVIDED TENDS TO BE FRAGMENTARY AND INCOMPLETE, REQUIRING EXTRAPOLATION AND ANALYSIS.

(B) THERE ARE LONG, UNEXPLAINED DELAYS, SOME OF WHICH ARE APPARENTLY DUE TO EXTENSIVE INTERNAL CLEARANCES. AT ONE STAGE THIS SPRING WE WERE TOLD THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION HAD REFUSED TO CLEAR THE RELEASE OF CERTAIN DATA AND THAT FINANCE MINISTRY-PLANNING COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS WERE NECESSARY. WE ALSO SUSPECT THAT SOVIET OR CEMA CLEARANCES MAY BE REQUIRED FOR SOME DATA.

(C) THE POLES ARE INDEED SENSITIVE ABOUT RANK, WHICH THEY LINK WITH MAINTENANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY. DURING KRZAK'S ABSENCE, AND WITH MINISTER KISIEL ALSO ON LEAVE, THERE WAS NO ONE AT THE MINISTRY TO WHOM WE COULD EFFECTIVELY PRESENT THE QUESTIONS TRANSMITTED IN REF B. ATTEMPTS TO PRESENT THE LIST TO LOWER RANKING PERSONS WOULD HAVE BEEN VIEWED SUSPICIOUSLY AS ATTEMPTS TO GET CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

(D) THE FINANCE MINISTRY IS APPARENTLY THE ONLY PLACE IN THE POLISH GOVERNMENT WHERE OUR REQUESTS CAN BE PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED. ATTEMPTS TO RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH OFFICIALS IN VANK HANDLOWY AND THE NATIONAL BANK, AS SUGGESTED IN SOME

EARLIER STATE CABLES, HAVE BEEN POLITELY TURNED DOWN.  
SCHAUFLE

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